



CCF BLASTS MARKETING FAILURE

In The Spring . . .



SECURITY OF SCHOOL PRINCIPALS THREATENED

When the two C.C.F. members of the Alberta legislature moved an amendment to the third reading of a bill that will have the effect of damaging the security of school principals and vice-principals in the province, they obtained the support of only two Social Credit members of the House.

A division on the C.C.F. amendment found all the opposition members supporting it, together with William Tomyn, Willingham, and A. V. Bourcier, Lac Ste. Anne. All other Social Credit members voted for the government bill to which the Alberta Teachers' Association took strong objection.

The bill provided for an amendment to Section 178 of the School Act which provides for the appointment of principals. Hitherto if a principal's appointment was cancelled he had an appeal to the Board of Reference. The government amendment to the Act deprives the principal of this privilege. His appeal may now be made only to the school board and the Minister of Education.

In moving his amendment to the government bill A. J. E. Liesemer said the government move struck a blow at the security of a large part of the teaching profession in the province and therefore militated against the recruitment of much-needed new teachers.

COLDWELL BROADCAST

M. J. Coldwell, M.P., C.C.F. national leader, will be the speaker in the "Nation's Business" program on Thursday, April 14, at 9:30 p.m. M.S.T. In Alberta, the broadcast will be carried by CBX.

For 50% Canadians

BUDGET MEANS BOOST IN BREAD

By DORIS FRENCH

OTTAWA (CPA)—For more than half the people of Canada the net result of Mr. Abbott's 1949 budget is an increase in the price of bread.

Fifty per cent of the Canadian people live on incomes so low that they paid no income tax last year, when exemptions were \$750 for single persons and \$1,500 for married persons.



Removal of taxes on jewellery and travelling bags, train tickets and long distance telephone calls won't arouse any mad excitement in this income group.

Neither will they turn a hair at the news that 10% of corporation dividends may now be deducted for tax purposes. The reduction of income tax rates means nothing to them, because they don't earn enough to pay any tax.

Just one thing in the Liberal government's budget hits these millions of Canadians. The subsidy of 46½¢ a bushel is removed from domestic wheat, and bread is going up in price.

Price ceilings are removed from bread, flour, butter, sugar, molasses and many fruits and vegetables.

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Britain Is Driven To Poles, Danes

OTTAWA, (CPA)—The "obituary of organized marketing" was seen in the present Agricultural Products bill by Percy Wright (C.C.F., Melfort) speaking in the House of Commons on March 24. He described the legislation as a "makeshift" to carry through the three remaining food contracts with Britain, for bacon, eggs and cheese, for one more year.

"If the minister of agriculture had actually been interested in maintaining stabilized markets for the farmers of this country, immediately after the war was over he would have introduced a marketing act under which he could have stabilized the markets of this country and supplied the British market," Mr. Wright said. "If the minister had introduced the proper legislation into this House; and had maintained a reasonable relationship between the price of grain, dairy products and meat products, our production of these products would be greater

(Continued on page 8)

Change Tactics

TORIES NOW VOTE FOR SPECULATORS

OTTAWA, (CPA)—The Conservatives under Mr. Drew have gained the "virtue of consistency in some respects, if not in others. For several years past the Conservative group in the Commons has followed the practice of talking against the "emergency" legislation which authorizes price, rent and other stabilizing controls. But when the vote was called the Tories generally gave in to public opinion and supported the government.

Different Now

This year it is different. Under (drop - the - Progressive) George, the Tories have talked and also voted against:

1. The bill to continue rent, lumber, steel and price control.
2. The bill to continue the Foreign Exchange Control Board.
3. The bill to continue the Canadian Commercial Corporation which controls imports and exports in a restricted field.
4. The bill to continue government purchases of eggs, cheese, and other farm commodities to fill the British food contracts.

The effect of all these measures is toward stabilization of Canada's economy by government control of price, supply and distribution. Although the Tories always insisted that their objection was on "constitutional" grounds, the net effect of their opposition, if they could have had their way, would have been to hand to private speculators the privilege of playing fast and loose with the currency and goods of the nation.

MOVING! MOVING! MOVING!

New address Alberta C.C.F. and the "People's Weekly": Alberta Woodsworth House, 10140 - 107th Street, Edmonton.

In a remarkable demonstration, in response to an appeal for funds to provide a permanent home for the Alberta C.C.F. and to add another link in the chain of living memorials to that great Canadian citizen, J. S. Woodsworth, C.C.F. members quickly provided ample cash to make real an Alberta Woodsworth House.

The objective was \$10,000, to provide cash payment on an \$18,000 project. As at Wednesday morning, March 30th, more than \$17,000 had been subscribed and cheques were still coming. In one morning's mail more than \$3,000 was received, as a result of a simple statement of need in E.E.R.'s "Personal Stuff" column of the previous week.

It is quite possible that before final signatures are made the only mortgage on the new C.C.F. premises may well be that held by an association of C.C.F. members, legally organized into a society for that purpose.

The money is an investment. The property is self-supporting and its own revenue will provide interest at 5% per annum on the investment as well as orderly retirement of the monies so invested.

It is a much greater investment in point of satisfaction to Alberta C.C.F. membership. It is a notably realistic expression of confidence in the present and future stability of the movement in this province and in Canada.

Ever since there has been an Alberta C.C.F. Provincial office, it has been housed at 10010 - 102nd Street, in a building that is the property of Elmer and Mrs. Roper.

It is a matter of mixed pride and regret that through all these years the C.C.F. provincial office has not paid a dollar for rent, light, heat and water to Mr. and Mrs. Roper; pride because that is the spirit, so spontaneously demonstrated by the provincial C.C.F. leader and his wife and duplicated by other hundreds, that has made possible the growth and development of a movement that does not survive on personal greed or ambition; and regret that so much has fallen on the shoulders of one willing man. The wonderful response to this Woodsworth House appeal is, in no small part, a spontaneous tribute to Mr. Roper, and a realistic recognition of his inspirational leadership.

The C.C.F. is even now moving. Look for the Alberta C.C.F. office in Alberta Woodsworth House, 10140 - 107th Street, Edmonton. All "People's Weekly" subscriptions should be sent to 10140 - 107th Street. ("People's Weekly" news items and other editorial material should continue to be sent to 10010 - 102 Street.)

Come up and see us some time.—J.E.C.

LADIES, IT'S STILL THE "LARGE ECONOMY SIZE"

OTTAWA (CPA)—Housewives pricked up their ears at the rumor that soap flakes were down in price, but it turned out to be mostly a hoax.

The "large economy size" used to be a four-pound package selling at \$1.20.

This week the manufacturers turned out a three-pound package to sell at 85¢. The drop in price is just over one cent a pound. But this new package is now called the "large economy size"—and advertisements suggest a substantial saving.

T.L.C. Dissatisfied

SOCIAL SECURITY AT SNAIL'S PACE

OTTAWA (CPA)—"Dissatisfaction at the snail's pace made toward economic and social security since the close of the war and particularly during the present session of parliament" was emphasized by the Trades and Labor Congress in their annual representation to the federal cabinet on March 24th.

"The fear of unemployment and illness has again reared its ugly head among our people," the T.L.C. memorandum said.

If changes in the B.N.A. Act are needed to effect necessary legislation, then surely our lawmakers of this generation are "capable of amending the constitution in line with present-day

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Brownlee Comments

SEES OUTLOOK FOR FARMERS BRIGHT

There are at least three reasons why farmers can look forward to a good return for agriculture this fall, declared J. E. Brownlee, K.C., president and general manager of United Grain Growers Limited, in a recent radio broadcast, in which he discussed the present grain situation and prospects for the coming season. First, he said, is the payment of well over two hundred million dollars, which will shortly be paid by the Canadian Wheat Board. Actually, he explained, this is the farmers' own money accumulated from past sales by the Wheat Board, but such payments will add considerably to this year's income. Increase of the Wheat Board's initial price from \$1.55 to \$1.75 per bushel, basis No. 1 Northern, in store terminal, means 20¢ per bushel more than the farmer received last year, he said. He saw the continuance of the British wheat contract, together with the signing of an international wheat agreement, also as important factors in the outlook for agriculture.

Mr. Brownlee stated he was particularly pleased with the recent announcement from Ottawa which guaranteed present floor prices for oats and barley for another year.

Pointing out the large surplus of flax which the Dominion gov-

(Continued on page 7)

Behind a brass plate in Harley-st.

Required, by a large London teaching hospital, an assistant surgeon. Only those with the highest qualifications and appropriate experience need apply. Hours of duty: Four half-days per-week. Remuneration, £800 per annum.

THE young surgeon who gets this job will indeed be a lucky man. His feet will be firmly placed on the professional ladder which can lead right to the top.

The generations of students who pass through his hands will learn to know and trust his skill, and each year more of them will be sending him their difficult cases for consultation or operation.

To keep him going in the early days, when he has no private practice, he will now have £800 a year in his pocket. That, for him, is the most tangible evidence that the National Health Service has "arrived".

The "Three W's"

Once he has started work as a member of the senior staff of the hospital, his first action will be to rent a consulting room, and tradition still prescribes an address between Marylebone Road and Wigmore Street.

If he can manage it, Harley Street will carry the greatest weight, but any of three "w's"—Wimpole, Welbeck or Weymouth Street—will be almost as good.

There is no question of a house there, or even a flat or room to himself. He will aim at the use of a room, furnished with massive respectability, for two mornings or afternoons a week.

Since perhaps three other doctors will also be using this room, he can claim as his own only a couple of drawers in the desk. His landlord will provide a receptionist, and a 24-hour telephone service and the all-in rent may be £200 a year. Here he will begin to build up his private practice.

Just Nothing

In the past, the specialist's basic income from his hospital appointment would have been literally nothing. For perhaps five years, his expenditure would have exceeded his earnings. When I was a student, I was warned that the first necessity for success in con-

By STEPHEN TAYLOR,
London Daily Herald Health Correspondent.

sulting or specialist practice was £20,000 in the bank, to carry one through the lean years.

Already things are very different. Student life, as a result of the great increase in grants and scholarships, is far easier.

Once the student is qualified as a doctor, his first job is as a junior hospital resident. In the old days he got free board and lodging but no pay; now he starts with the addition of £4 a week.

If he is aiming at a specialist career, and if his skill justifies it, from then on he can hold salaried posts, while he enlarges his experience under supervision.

Once exam days are over, he can choose whether to become a whole-time or part-time specialist in the Health Service. If his choice is whole-time, the Harley Street area will see nothing of him.

His life will be spent in one or more hospitals, looking after patients who pay no fees. His salary, depending on his skill, status and experience, may range anywhere between £900 and £2,500 a year, though these figures are provisional. The final rates will be decided in a month or so, in negotiations between the Minister and the doctors.

Life, as a whole-time specialist, on a good salary, is a revolution. Since the 1920's, there have been, until now, perhaps a dozen such posts, the professorships at the great teaching hospitals. But these professors had almost always served a long apprenticeship in Harley Street specialist practice.

Every new whole-time specialist post advertised by the Regional Hospital Boards and the Boards of Governors under the National Health Service produces anything from 50 to 100 applications.

The young specialists are welcoming this new way of life, and within a few years, the Harley Street landlords will be feeling the draught.

But the specialist who sticks to part-time National Health Service work is a very long way from dead.

There are still many people who are not prepared to take their turn at the hospitals.

All the same, private consulting and specialist practice is passing its peak. Every whole-time specialist appointment means improved service for those who keep within the scheme. For the first time specialists are beginning to be evenly distributed over the country, and the trek of patients to London is declining.

As more "amenity" private wards (available for a small charge, without extra medical fees) are brought into operation, more people will be choosing them, rather than the full pay private blocks and nursing homes.

But this is bound to be gradual. Harley Street will suffer no sudden slaughter; its specialists will simply retire and not be replaced.

There is, however, one type of Harley Street practice we could do without if some members of the public had the sense to see to it. Harley Street landlords impose no tests of skill on those who would be their tenants. This is left to the hospitals when choosing part-time specialist staff.

It is Mrs. X who recommends Lady Y to visit her favorite doctor, who generally has an impressive manner and plenty of gadgets and charges a hefty fee.

The simplest way to ensure that your specialist knows his job is to get a nomination from your own doctor instead of choosing him yourself. Your own general practitioner will know the specialist whose particular skill is most likely to benefit you, and he will be able to advise you about treatment inside the Health Service.

Brighter Future

For the young doctor bent on specializing, the future is brighter than ever. The giant incomes of £20,000 to £30,000 have gone.

For a few at the very top there will still be large earnings, comparable with those for the highest skill in other professions.

But for the majority, there is now the certainty of a full life of useful service, at a good salary and under improving conditions.



Bertrand Russell, third Earl Russell, at the British Broadcasting Corporation microphone, where he has recently given the first series of Reith lectures, his subject being "Authority and the Individual." Bertrand Russell, one of the great philosophers of the day, was prepared by careful private education for a political career, but decided that this would be a bore and formed his own ambition, which was to rival the exploits of the great revolutionary nineteenth century scientists, such as Darwin and Huxley, by analyzing the processes of Thought, as they had of Nature. A profile of Bertrand Russell in a famous British Sunday newspaper concludes by saying, "The great pleasure of talking to him is that, while he will entertain casual visitors with a pyrotechnical display of wit and anecdote, his real purpose in discussion is always to seek out the truth. That, and his abundant emotions, make his greatness; no one who has seen his passion roused by cruelty or intolerance will wish to offend his sense of what is inexcusable. It is, indeed, this vigorous responsiveness of feeling, stabilized by immense learning, ultimately controlled by reason, and always expressed with lucidity and humor, which explains both Russell's public reputation, and why his friends find his company so uniquely satisfying."

other point of objection, namely, that farmers and workers are getting higher real income than ever before. Let us take the figures quoted by the Chamber of Commerce. The index figure for wages in 1937 was at 101.8, while in 1947 it had gone up to 183. The index figures for living costs were 101.2 in 1937 and rose to 135.5 in 1947. Notice that in 1948 the living cost was nearly 170. But they stop at 1947 because it makes the figures look better. But the fact is that the average wage for Canadian workers was at a sub-standard level in 1937 and still is sub-standard. In 1947 the Minister of Finance declared in his budget speech that 75% of wage earners received less than \$750.00 a year. How would mem-

bers of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce like to live on \$750 a year or less?

But here is the proper comparison. In 1937 Canada's total national income was less than six billion. Last year it was 15½ billion, and this year is estimated at 16½ billion. So that if the index figure for wages was 101 in 1937, when our total production was about six billion, it should be 250 now that our 1949 production is 16½ billion. Or, to be safe, let's knock off 50 from the index figure to allow for the increased number of workers and the index figure should still be at 200. However, it would not be wise for the Chamber of Commerce to hint at paying wages on the basis of total national production.

Profits Higher, Wages Static

Corporation profits for 1947 were at an all-time high. The Minister of Finance described the profits in 1946 as "at an abnormally high level", yet in 1947 profits, after taxes, were 35% higher than in 1946. In addition to that there were the profits concealed by over-charging for depreciation, charging new investments to operating costs or by setting up large contingency funds which the business in question does not require. The heavy profits

made were largely confined to a few large companies. In fact, 5% of the 665 companies mentioned in the Bank of Canada figures took over 50% of the total profits.

The profit figures for 1948 have not yet been published. However, such indications as there are point to a still higher profit. A preliminary survey by the "Financial Post" of 91 companies shows that profits after taxes were increased by 25% over 1947.

The Canadian Congress of (Continued on page 3)

Notes On Current Events

By Wm. Irvine, M.P.

Deforming the Senate

Reforming the Senate was one of the planks in the Liberal Party when Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King became its leader. It is surely fair enough to ask now when and to what extent the Senate has been reformed. As is known, there are 96 members of the Senate. At the present time there are 65 Liberals, 15 Conservatives and 16 vacancies (referring to the seats). It is safe to say that before the next election there will be 87 Liberals in the Senate—that is counting the new senators from

Newfoundland. And if the Liberals continue in power after the next election the Conservatives will almost disappear entirely from that body, leaving it an old man's home for Liberals only.

Instead of reforming the Senate the Liberals have deformed it. No longer can it be said that the political views of the Canadian people, as expressed either in the House of Commons or in the Provincial Legislatures, are properly represented in the Senate. The new Prime Minister has an opportunity now to begin this long

overdue reformation. There is a government in Quebec, which is neither Liberal nor Conservative; there are coalition governments in British Columbia, Manitoba, a Social Credit government in Alberta, a C.C.F. government in Saskatchewan, and a Conservative government in Ontario. The three Maritime provinces have the only Liberal governments among the provinces. If, therefore, the political views of the people of Canada are to be reflected in the Senate, people other than Liberals should be appointed at once.

Wages and National Income

In its "News Letter" for March the Canadian Chamber of Commerce devoted most of its editorial columns to the speech I made in the House of Commons on public ownership of monopolies. The burden of the plea of that journal was that wages of workers

and income of farmers are rising more than profits and that the monopolies have not in the last year curtailed production so as to maintain a high profit rate. Of course, no one charged the monopolies with curtailing production last year. When there are

short supplies and abundance of money in circulation, it would be contrary to capitalist notions to curtail supply. But just as soon as supply gets plentiful the monopolies will pare down output so as to keep up prices. But let's have a look at the



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THE PEOPLE SPEAK



THE NEW "LINE"

Communists are not the only ones with a "line" or policy to follow. Free enterprisers also have a "line", which varies from time to time. Last summer when numerous provincial elections were taking place the "line" was to smear the C.C.F. with Communism. A number of international incidents in the cold war made that line effective. Communists rose to power in Czechoslovakia. Masaryk jumped out of the window. A Russian school teacher died the same from an Embassy window. There were spy scares and witch hunts, and altogether the atmosphere was favorable to ride the "red bogey" for all it was worth.

Since that time a noticeable change has taken place in the line of attack against the C.C.F. The Communists have reversed their policy of supporting the C.C.F. It is being accused of war-mongering. Labor unions favoring the C.C.F. as their political arm have "cleaned house" of Communists and fellow-travellers. Socialist Britain is making remarkable social and economic progress and retaining the support of the working classes. In western democracies Socialist administrations have been returned to power, and Communist representation has been reduced. Somehow the "red smear" does not stick so well in face of this obvious "respectability" of Socialism. So the line had to be changed.

The new line is to accuse Socialists of bribing voters with social security reforms. It runs something like this: Don't be a sucker. The social security program of the C.C.F. is only the bait at the end of a hook. The real objective of the C.C.F. is to get into power on the reform program and then to use the power for their "evil designs" of the slave state of Socialism. In the press or on the air, wherever political ideologies are discussed, this is the line used by defenders of the free enterprise profit economy.

It's not as good a line as the "smear" technique. Sounds too much like mere warning against something for which there is no direct evidence. Besides, the accusers themselves are so guilty of election bribery with promises broken that it can easily boomerang. It is not very effective with the unemployed, the under-employed, the under-paid, the pensioners and all those who live in slums and insecurity. Like telling a hungry man not to touch food, it's poisoned. The hungry man observe others enjoying it and smacking their lips, British workers have not suffered any ill effects from the security measures. They seem to like it and ask for more. Socialist governments are enjoying popular support wherever they have been in power.

Reminds me of a hen I saw once clucking up and down the edge of a pond while the little ducklings she had hatched were merrily swimming away from "mamma." But after all, what else can the poog hen do except cluck and cluck some more?

ON SPLITTING HAIRS

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: I have read with a feeling of discouragement the controversy in the recent papers which reminds me of the game we used to play in which the two antagonists used to be armed with sacks containing sweaters or hay. They were blindfolded and knelt on a blanket which acted as a guide. Each then tried to hit the other. It was sure funny for the ones looking on. I am taking the liberty of sending in a poem I wrote some time ago on the same subject.

On Splitting Hairs

I learned a lot about Socialists while still a boy at school But not from teachers or from books at least, not as a rule My father had turned Socialist with the slowly turning tide And I heard him speak of E. V. Debbs whose fame was spreading wide, For he planned to run for president.

'Tho he had small chance to win, So I asked my dad to tell me if he thought Debbs might get in. He said, "Oh, no, of course he can't the fight will be one-sided The Socialists are far too few and far too much divided. Instead of getting down to work

Letters to the editor may be published under a pseudonym, but in each case the name and address of the writer must be forwarded to the editor as evidence of good faith. The People's Weekly takes no responsibility for opinions expressed by correspondents and will not publish any letters exceeding 300 words in length.

and pulling all they can. They waste their time in splitting hairs concerning future plans." There are two kinds of Socialists my dad tried to explain To me a boy of fourteen years it was not very plain. The years have passed and Debbs and dad but still the workers turn

Their backs upon each other and nothing seem to learn; In two armed camps and scattered squads they are in a sorry plight While Capital has one great fear, the fear they may unite.

A SOCIALIST.

Whitelaw, Alberta.

BESIDE THE POINT

Editor, People's Weekly.

Sir: While it may be interesting from an academic point of view, the discussion of Socialism in our People Speak column is largely beside the question. It is a pretty safe bet that only a very small per cent of C.C.F. members are interested in Marx or support the C.C.F. because they think it is

Socialism but rather because it is the only political party that is irrevocably committed to a program designed to improve the living standards of the population and curb the abuses of monopoly enterprise.

The name "Socialism" has undergone a change of meaning. A generation ago the dictionaries defined it as equal division of property. Present day dictionaries define Socialism as common or collective ownership. It is up to us as an organization to clarify the situation by a clear-cut and united statement to the effect that we are not in any sense "Marxist" although we are perhaps Socialism in so far as we support group or collective ownership of such industry or business as by its own nature tends to become monopolistic. If some of our principles happen to be the same as Marx that is merely a coincidence.

Perhaps our most obnoxious principle to the henchmen of monopoly enterprise is a planned economy. As a fact, our economy is planned whether we like it or not. The trouble is that it is planned piecemeal by private enterprise. Each industry plans for itself a program for a period of years which seems to them to meet the prospect but with little or no provision to cushion the effect of a recession in several or all industries. But when we propose our economy must be planned by elect-

ed representatives of the people whom it affects and in co-ordination as a whole, that is obnoxious to "private enterprise." As concrete evidence we have the attitude of the daily press toward the British and Saskatchewan governments.

The writer has discussed the question with a number of hard-boiled Conservatives, born and educated in Great Britain. Without exception they agree that the British government has done even better than might have been hoped for.

F. D. PARKER.

Madden, Alberta.

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Notes On Current Events

(Continued from Page 2)

Labor, noting this increase in highest profit in their history, says: "The fact that Canadian companies are showing the

Advises Restriction of Output

It appears that the production of crude oil is now somewhat greater than the demand. This has resulted in four price cuts in the U.S.A. during the past four months. According to an item in the "Financial Times," Mr. George J. Hanks, president, South Pennsylvania Oil Co., "warned that production in the United States must be reduced materially in order that a better balance between supply and demand be achieved." That "better balance" means that production must be kept at the "scarcity" level so that the highest possible price can be charged. We hope that the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Journal will note Mr. Hanks' advice and write an editorial showing that oil monopolies can and will restrict production in order to maintain their rate of profit.

The toad's tongue is attached in front, not at the rear of the mouth. This allows it to be flipped out from back of the toad's mouth and as quickly flipped back to the opening of the throat.

The pelican derives its name from the Greek. It has a huge beak shaped like a great Great pelicans, an ax.



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RELUCTANT ACTION

MUCH AGAINST its will and after a year's unnecessary delay the Alberta government has passed the enabling legislation which will permit the marketing of coarse grains by the Wheat Board, if the federal government so directs.

The Saskatchewan government passed the act in 1948. The federal government took the position that it would not go through with its legislation unless Manitoba and Alberta also enacted enabling legislation. Both refused to do so last year. Pressure from farm organizations have compelled the Alberta government to act in the session just closed.

Whether the reluctance of the Alberta government to meet the farmers' wishes in this matter has anything to do with Social Credit theory, probably won't be revealed. The "Douglassites" in the legislature opposed the move because, they said, it was not Social Credit but Socialism.

Premier Manning and Attorney General Maynard told the House that they weren't enthusiastic about the legislation. They were only passing it, they intimated, because the farmers wanted it, not because the government believed in it. Their position was one of attempting to place the responsibility on the farm organizations, leaving themselves free to assume an "I told you so" attitude if in spite of controlled marketing, farm prices became unstable.

MAKING BRITAIN GREAT

THERE IS a vast silence in Canadian newspapers these days about the situation in Britain. Apparently believing that they could influence the situation with their own tirades against the Labor government, our dailies and periodicals were full of the miseries of the British people under Socialism, and of predictions about what would happen to Mr. Attlee's administration when the people got a chance to vote.

But with recent by-elections showing increased labor votes and the long string of by-election victories being still unbroken, Canadian editorializers are crawling into their shells.

And well they might. Not only has the British Labor government faced with vigor and effectiveness the great task of reconstruction at home but it has shown courage and imagination in dealing with the far flung problems of empire. To assess the great value of the government's policy one has only to contemplate the difficulties Britain would now be facing if it were still carrying the vast liability of a discontented and rebellious subject people in India. Instead the two free dominions of India and Pakistan are a source of friendly strength.

In its colonial development policy the government has also shown initiative and imagination enough to cause Beaverbrook's *Daily Express* to say editorially: "The Tories are jealous of the Socialists for stealing the Empire initiative... the government's reaction should be a fiercer determination to make it succeed. For this is much more than a piece of shining armour to wear against the Tories, more than a dodge for winning elections. It is a fine imaginative project, way up above politics."

The Labor government will go back in 1950 getting a chance to carry farther toward its completion the task of making Britain great again, great in the happiness and well-being of her people.

FUNNY BUSINESS

SHOULD the head of the Alberta Treasury Branches be a director of a private company, other directors of which are three members of the legislature and at least one large borrower from the Treasury Branches?

This was a question which opposition members of the Alberta legislature did their best to get answered in the session of the legislature which prorogued on Tuesday.

Canada West Insurance Company has among its directors, J. C. Landeryou, Social Credit member for Lethbridge, Roy Lee, Social Credit member for Taber, and Michael Ponith, Social Credit member for Vegreville, A. T. Olive, Superintendent of the Treasury Branches, and Frank O'Sullivan, Lethbridge road contractor, who has obtained very large contracts from the government and who was shown in a public accounts investigation last year to be a large borrower from the Treasury Branches.

The company was incorporated three years ago by special act of the legislature. Its manager is Mr. Landeryou. Getting into financial difficulties, its license for 1949 has been withheld and an investigation of its affairs is in progress.

Opposition members of the legislature objected to the head of the Treasury Branches being mixed up in a private company with members of the legislature and a government contractor who is a heavy borrower from the Branches. That the particular company is now under a cloud emphasizes, it was claimed, the impropriety of a top civil servant occupying such a position.

Opposition members failed, however, to obtain any assurance from the government that it would adopt a rule that would prevent a repetition of the situation involving Mr. Olive.

THE THIRD COLUMN

NO MESS OF POTTAGE THIS!

Time, March 21:

In Britain, at least, there was no longer any point in warning citizens that they were selling their birthright of freedom for a mess of pottage. Bevan, the bulldog breed's new vet, could reply that Britons could eat tastier, tougher fare than pottage now that they had got new false teeth from the health services. As Time's London Bureau Chief Eric Gibbs cabled:

"For too long 'free enterprise' seemed to mean only that the British employer was free from responsibility for his employees' welfare. Now the state comes to these under-nourished men and women, provides their children with orange juice, cod liver oil and milk, sends the doctor when they are sick. These people won't listen to any man who tells them that the welfare state is a bad thing which robs them of their initiative by all this coddling. They will look at their healthier children and will call that man a liar."

★

IRVINE HAS A NAME FOR IT!
Ottawa, March 21 (CPA):

"Money and exchange should not be left to become the gambling instruments of anybody," Bill Irvine (C.C.F., Cariboo) said in a serious moment on March 21st in the midst of a droll attack on the P-C financial 'expert', J. M. Macdonnell (Muskoka, Ontario), which sent wave after wave of delighted chuckles through the Commons chamber. Both speakers were taking part in the debate on the bill to continue the Foreign Exchange Control Board—which the Tories want to ditch.

"Mr. Irvine said that Macdonnell acted like the unwilling defender of the exchange interests; he had spent the duration of his speech in a 'dream world' from which he emerged to plead 'Mr. Speaker, let's do something' without leaving a clue as to what he would do."

"He pictured the Conservative member-as-sitting 'with one leg astride the bull, and the other astride the bull, looking toward the grand horizon of 'restored realities'—going to do something—although neither the bull nor the bear nor the honorable member for Muskoka know what they are going to do."

★

BRITAIN'S 120 YEAR RECORD
Christian Science Monitor,

March 3:

"Great Britain has done better than nearly balancing its trade account."

"It is almost certain to have closed its 'over-all' payment gap in the months of January and February and even may have built up a surplus, according to calculations of high authorities here."

"These calculations are not yet official. But experts I have spoken to are convinced they will be proved right. In which case corrections to 'preliminary' figures recently issued by the Board of Trade would cause February's, supposed £23,000,000 deficit to be rubbed out entirely."

"This would seem an historic occasion in its own way. According to the official graph in front of me as I type, this would appear to be the first time Britain actually has balanced its trade accounts for about 120 years."

FOOTPRINTS

DEMOCRACY—
A SOCIAL FAITH

BY J. P. GRIFFIN



"How difficult it is for those who have money to get into the Kingdom of God."

IT MAY BE observed here by way of comment upon our subject, that those who profess it most by the economic dictatorships of the day, are most fearful of any social changes which may rout them out of their well-furnished nests into the bracing atmosphere of equal competition with their fellows. Because they can think of democratic Socialism solely as a levelling down process, they are therefore determined to oppose its introduction into society as long as they can.

But the extension of democracy is not a scheme for levelling down, it is a process of levelling up. Democracy does not mean that the rich man's child must leave college to make room for the poor man's child. It proposes to give them both an equal chance. In terms of better health it has already meant levelling up for thousands of British people. No rich man has been required to sacrifice his health on their account—as they in the past have been required to sacrifice theirs for him. Indeed many a wealthy person would enjoy better health if they were to live on a fraction of their income and earn it in useful toil. In terms of mental and moral contributions to society the "idle rich" are nearly a complete wash-out, and social changes which would make them into sober contributors to the common good would automatically lift them into a higher sphere of life.

So too with the great corporations whose sole aim has become

the assurance of their own survival. Who will say that the merchants of death who traffic in arms and military equipment could not be more usefully employed in supplying their prospective victims with the mechanical means of lessening the drudgery that holds them down to an animal level of existence? What that not, too, be an upward step to take?

Consider the effects of the liquor traffic that contributes such a generous quota of the criminals that fill our jails, of the physical wrecks that crowd the accident wards in our hospitals, and of the mental wrecks that seek recovery in our mental homes. Would it not be better if the millions of dollars spent by these privately owned liquor interests in seeking to make their products attractive to young people, so that as many as possible, as soon as possible, may become good customers in a state of chronic alcoholism, were used in cleaning up some of the human wreckage which they have already produced? Would it not really be better for them, and us?

Finally are not co-operatives, anywhere, whose sole interest is service to their patrons, on a higher moral and ethical plane than private industry, whose loyalty must of necessity be to its shareholders at the expense of its patrons?

"We are not here to play—to dream, to drift."

"We have hard work to do and loads to lift."

"Shun not the struggle—face it. 'Tis God's gift."

Be strong.

The Way Of Democratic Socialism

By Mrs. Nellie Peterson,

President, Alberta C.C.F.

MR. WOODWARD, one of the defenders of present corporation profits on last Sunday's broadcast of "Town Meeting of the Air," expressed the propaganda line of Big Business by stating that the people of Canada had before them the choice of only two ways of life: (1) What he chose to call F.E., with its all-powerful monopolistic corporations, their profits and their controls or (2) the Russian system.

Well, whether this spokesman of Big Business knows it or not, he and the Communists are saying "exactly the same thing!" The only difference is that the Communists say the Russian system is O.K., and Big Business says the monopoly corporation system can't be changed to improve anything.

Both Are Wrong

Both are wrong and both do grave disservice to democracy.

Right now Communism won't win many followers; the danger to democracy lies in this: that, when, in the cycle of "boom and bust" only a little less regular

than the seasons, depression again fills the days with gloom and unrest, many, many people may well remember that not only the voice of Communism prophesied but their Big Business master's voice told them that their only escape from fear, uncertainty and poverty lay in Communism.

Not a pleasant prospect for those who value democracy, is it? Fortunately, we do not have to choose between Communism and an ever-increasing domination by Big Business, the wedge-end of Fascism.

The Scandinavian countries, New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain are brilliantly proving that there is a third way—the way of democratic Socialism. The March issue of Harper's magazine, quiet, staid and never, never even suspected of Communist tendencies (and that's saying a lot in a day when Mr. Ansley, M.L.A., sees Mrs. Roosevelt as "a dangerous radical") carries an article, "Good News Out of England" by the well-known author, traveller and radio commentator, John W. Vane-dereck.

Quotes Harper's Every line of the six pages is worthy of quotation. But the following should be pre-recorded

(Continued on page 8)

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Gets the Memberships

ART THORNTON,
President, Edmonton C.C.F.

With the \$900 mark reached, Edmonton constituency membership and "People's Weekly" drive is going forward satisfactorily. The drive will be continued until all 1947 and 1948 members have been canvassed. Art Thornton, shown above, recently turned in \$65 in memberships and subs.

Honored by Edmonton C.C.F.

ROPER, LIESEMER
BANQUET SPEAKERS

"In the opinion of the government 'politics' is what the opposition members engage in when they legitimately question the government," said Mr. Elmer E. Roper, M.L.A., when he addressed the Edmonton C.C.F. Constituency Association annual banquet at the Seven Seas on Wednesday evening of last week. "The government," he said, "considers statesmanship the art of labelling every move the opposition makes as 'childish' or 'ridiculous.'" The C.C.F. leader pointed out that "by the simple expedient of scorning the small opposition the government has avoided answering some pertinent questions. It seems to feel that any criticism is unwarranted."

Mr. Roper and A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., were the guest speakers.

Commenting on the response for the purchase of a Woodsworth House for the Alberta C.C.F., Mr. Roper referred to it as "splendid." "I have never felt more like going on with a job than I do this minute," he declared.

Hampson Voices Thanks
In introducing the speaker, Jack Hampson, president of the Alberta Industrial Federation of Labor, thanked Mr. Roper and Mr. Liesemer for their support of labor on the floor of the legislature. Because of pressure, he said, the government had decided to bring the Labor bill before the legislature this session. He expressed appreciation to C.C.F. people for their support of the Canadian Congress of Labor school and rally held recently in the city.

A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., for Calgary, in addressing the banquet said, "If democracy is to survive, democratic Socialism is inevitable. The attitude of people towards Socialism is changing. The by-elections in Britain are showing that the British people like their Socialist government."

Deplores Rubber Stamps
Mr. Liesemer discussed ways and means of "improving Canadian political institutions pointing

Calling All Women

By EDITH PATTERSON, Calgary

Red Dawn In China

PETER TOWNSEND, who with the Friends' Ambulance Unit and the Chinese Industrial Co-operatives, has travelled in all parts of China, meeting its peoples and studying their problems, has cabled articles from Shanghai to "Reynolds News," one of which has the above caption.

And it's Red Dawn in China for the women also, for he says: "In the wake of land distribution has come greater status for women. One old peasant, brought up all his life in a feudal-minded village, said sadly, 'This new government's all right except for one thing. The women think they are

independent. We can't beat them any more. If we do they take us before the village elders, and we have to take the rap.'

"For women, too, have been given the right of possession and have passed from being chattels and bag-and-baggage nearer to independent human beings with their own rights. The change has come suddenly, upsetting the traditional ideas of the village, but it has come to stay."

"The country girl can see, in the ranks of administrators and teachers, women holding high places, and she is beginning to lose her fear of the men in the household."

Speakers: Irvine, Liesemer

WILL NOMINATE AT
CAMROSE, APRIL 9

William Irvine, M.P., and A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., have been invited to address a public meeting in the Elks Hall, Camrose, on Saturday evening, April 9.

The Camrose C.C.F. Federal Constituency nominating convention will be held in the same hall at 1:00 p.m., when officers will also be elected. Mrs. Millie Peterson, C.C.F. provincial president, will be the speaker at the afternoon gathering.

The Camrose Women's C.C.F. Club is arranging an afternoon lunch and musical entertainment, with a picture show in the evening from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mr. Irvine and Mr. Liesemer will speak following the showing of two films depicting the opening of parliament at Ottawa and the National Film Board pictures of the C.C.F. national convention held last year in Winnipeg.

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Speaker: A. J. E. Liesemer,
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Sudbury's Speaker Training Program



Top left—Here is part of the group of about forty persons who turned out for the fourth session of the Sudbury C.C.F. course. About one-third of those present were non-members.

Top right—Here's a sample of the "warm-up"! A group of speakers go up to the front of the hall, some nervous, some jittery, some "frozen". But the "warm-up" makes them let go of themselves, and by the time they have to speak, they are usually relaxed and smiling. The audience, made up of speakers too, get a good laugh out of the "warm-up" which is much like "cheer-leader" practice.

Bottom left—WILLARD EVOY, C.C.F. federal candidate for Sudbury, is a young intelligent, aggressive businessman who spends all his spare time working for the C.C.F. Together with a small group of members, he initiated the C.C.F. weekly work groups in Sudbury, and the weekly radio broadcasts.

Bottom right—Mother and daughter join in the fun. Here is Dorothy Koskinen (left) and her mother, Mrs. Hilda Koskinen, both of whom took their turn in the "effective speaking" sessions.



IN THIS busy mining town of Sudbury, Ontario, a "novel experiment" in C.C.F. education is proving invaluable in getting C.C.F. members and their friends together once a week for a session which is as rewarding as it is entertaining. The weekly session is a study course without lectures and a funfest without scheduled entertainers.

The course is called the "C.C.F. Course in Effective Speaking, Human Relations and Democratic Socialism". It is all that. The participating members do all the speaking guided only, by a simple set of rules. As they learn to express themselves, they will branch out and speak on subjects which are dear to the heart of every C.C.F.'er. At the moment, while they are learning, they speak on any subject—under the sun. They really do.

Learn by Doing

The course was adapted by Willard Evoy, vice-president of the Sudbury C.C.F. He, assisted by Ed. Galovan, gives the group the easygoing direction it needs. The group is told at the beginning: "You will not be given lectures.

You will learn by doing." As a result, every member present gets up at the front of the hall twice during the evening, first to talk for a minute on an impromptu subject, and finally for a minute and a half on a given subject which may simply be "My Hobby".

Three Periods

The evening is divided into three periods. The first starts at 6:30 and is arranged for members who missed the previous week due to shift work. The second starts at 8:00, the final period at 10:00, with a 15-minute break in between. Evoy reviews quickly the simple rules and techniques of procedure, and then calls for subjects for the evening's speeches. When enough subjects have been written down on slips of paper, the slips are passed around. The member usually speaks on the topic given him, but he may exchange topics with a neighbor. Among the subjects listed were: Margarine, Health Insurance, Why I Like Farming, Homes for the Aged, Television and Hydro.

"Warm-Up"

The speakers are called to the front in groups of four. Each

group of four goes through a "warm-up" which is where the fun begins. Everyone knows how nervous the average person gets when he is called upon to speak. The nervousness is entirely dissipated in the "warm-up" period, which is simply a group exercise in "letting one's hair down". The four together count from 1 to 15 very loudly and with exaggerated gestures. The participants laugh and the audience laughs, and everyone immediately feels quite at ease. This is noticeable from the speeches. The most timorous soul speaks with little hesitation, while the more aggressive person goes into his talk with a will.

Just before the intermission, C.C.F. literature is distributed. At this particular meeting the leaflet "Social Ownership" was handed out. Then Evoy asked for examples of social ownership, and got an immediate response. "Airlines," said Bill Slater, who works at the smelter at International Nickel. "Beef ring," said Gordon Mackay, who works at the Inco refinery but used to farm.

Post Offices, Insurance, Co-operative Farming and the British Coal Mines were other examples called out.

At the end of the evening, a vote is taken to decide which speaker showed the most improvement over his previous attempt, and which gave the best talk of the evening. Each winner gets a prize book, "Looking Backward" by Bellamy. No one person can win twice.

"Knees Were Shaking"

One of the prize-winners for "most improvement" was Alcide Beaudry. At the first session Mr. Beaudry's "knees were shaking". He could hardly utter ten words.

By the fourth meeting, he seemed to have no difficulty in expressing himself with deliberation and confidence.

There were about forty out at this fourth meeting, just enough to comfortably fill the small C.C.F. hall. The group represented a good cross-section of the community—English, French, Italian, Rumanian, Swedish, Norwegian and Ukrainian.

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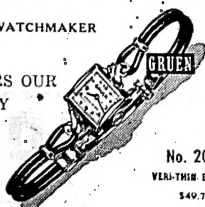
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A BIT OF Nonsense

The minister had preached for an hour and a quarter on the prophets—all the greater prophets—and then the minor ones in turn. "Now we come to Habakkuk," he said. "Where shall we put him?" "He can have my seat," said a Scotsman. "I'm awa' hame."

"Why are you wearing spectacles, old chap?"

"Well, through crossword puzzles I've contracted an optical defect. One eye travels vertically and the other horizontally."

The composer Mozart was once asked by a young man how to write a symphony.

"You're still very young," Mozart objected, "why don't you begin with ballads?"

"But," urged the young man, "you composed symphonies when you were only ten years old."

"True enough," the composer said, "but I didn't ask how."

REFUSE REQUEST FOR SUBSIDIES

OTTAWA, (CPA).—Subsidies to dairy farmers of five cents a pound for butter fat and two cents a quart for milk were requested in the House of Commons recently by E. B. McKay, (C.C.F., Weyburn). He drew attention to the "serious drop in butter prices, and the chaotic state of the market," and recommended the subsidies as a means of maintaining production in order to assure the country of adequate supplies of these dairy products.

Mr. Gardiner, minister of agriculture, said the government had rejected the idea of subsidies, considering a floor price on butter was as much as they could guarantee.

The hum of a bee is due to the very rapid vibration of the bee's wings.

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General Workers of America No. 180. United—Meets second Wednesday in each month in Labor Hall, President, Perry Williamson, 9548 106A Ave. Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. Smith 9817 9th Avenue.

FIRE FIGHTERS, No. 206, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF—Meets in No. 2 Fire Hall, President, A. J. G. Laidler, 14006, 101 Ave. Sec. Treas., J. Graham, 11947 - 92 St., Edmonton.



Developed by blind students at the Radio Engineering Institute in Omaha, this electronic baby sitter really works. The proof is that this deaf couple knew their baby was crying when that light atop the dresser flashed. The electronic device picks up any sound from the crib and it in turn lights the lamp.

CARROTS

By TOM RUSSELL

SOME years ago there was a very popular cartoon published in London, England. It depicted a costermonger seated in his two-wheeled donkey cart. On the end of his whip dangled a carrot, which was held in front of the donkey—just out of reach. The donkey was trotting briskly trying to catch up with it.

A few days ago Herbert Gargrave, M.L.A. (C.C.F.), accused the Coalition government at Victoria, B.C., of dangleing a '92 million dollar carrot in front of the B.C. voters. One would have expected a vigorous protest from the people of B.C. at being referred to as donkeys, but none was made, for the very good reason that carrot-dangleing has been the most effective method of perpetuating the 'exploiting system, now masquerading under the term "free enterprise"! The beauty of it is that the donkeys never get the

carrots. Could any other way be simpler or cheaper?

In the "hungry 'thirties" here in B.C. a Mr. Pattullo dangleed a couple of carrots. He called them "Work and Wages". Just what we needed, so, of course, we elected him, then the carrots disappeared. Their—Mr. R. B. Bennett came to our aid with another carrot in the shape of a stick of blasting powder: "I'll blast my way into the markets of the world and end unemployment in six weeks." We elected him, the six weeks elapsed—so did the carrot.

"\$60 at 60"

Now, comes Elmore Philpott, "Vancouver Sun" columnist, with the suggestion of another carrot with which the present Liberal government at Ottawa can win the next election. "\$60 at 60 and no means test."

S.C. Outbids Them All

But none of these carrot-dangleers will ever come up to the Alberta prophet, the world's champion, with his alluring bunch of twenty-five carrots that looked so real, with such luscious tops made up, of quotations of Scripture to be given to all and sundry once a month. Too bad the champ has gone to his last home. His successors have, of course, discarded the carrots, but they still dangle the tops, which are beginning to lose their freshness and smell a bit stale.

What is needed now is a bunch of progressive carrots, and here's a hint to the two progressive parties, the Progressive Conservatives, the Labor-Progressive Party and also to their bosom friends, the Social Creditors:

Now that men and women are finding themselves "not wanted" when they reach the age of 40, how about "\$40 at 40, \$50 at 50, \$60 at 60, and \$70 at 70?"—real progressive carrots!

Doing a Little Thinking

But, unfortunately for the carrot-dangleers, some of the donkeys have stopped chasing and are doing a little thinking on their own. If their numbers continue to increase as they are now doing, it may spell the end of the whole carrot-dangleing racket. If it does, there's nothing left but bogies and mud-slinging.

It's Dead But It Won't Lie Down

Editorial in Calgary Herald, March 23:

IN NOVEMBER, 1947, the Social Credit Board died. Premier Manning himself pronounced the obsequies. Save for the board members and a few hard-shelled Douglasites, it was unwept. Most of the M.L.A.'s were heartily ashamed of its antics and only too happy to see it go.

But the Social Credit Board had a certain, phoenix-like character. It rose from the ashes, in glorious guise, as the Department of Economic Affairs. True, Premier Manning announced that its political activities would be carried on by the Alberta Social Credit League, but he added that its public information services would be attached to the Department of Economic Affairs. (Canadian Press dispatch: November 5, 1947.)

It is this "public information service" that sticks in the crop of Opposition members. They can't swallow it, particularly since each M.L.A. has been provided recently with a neat little loge-leaf book, courtesy of the Department of Economic Affairs. Printed inserts are supplied from time to time, with all sorts of news tidbits—little items about the dates of muskrat trapping, and the like.

With these are certain news "corrections." A. J. E. Liesemer, M.L.A., makes a speech on power, for example. Excerpts are quoted, followed by a "correction" by the premier. In fact, any noteworthy criticism of government policy is "corrected" in much the same fashion.

What these claims and counter-claims have to do with the Department of Economic Affairs puzzles Opposition members. They suggested, when the department's estimates came up early this week, that they didn't think material of such a kind warranted the payment of \$10,000 a year to Hon. A. J. Hooke.

Some were harsh enough to describe Mr. Hooke's literary efforts as propaganda. And Elmer Roper, M.L.A. for Edmonton, went so

far as to describe it as "a flagrant misuse of public funds and a frightful misuse of the time of civil servants." Because, of course, Mr. Hooke doesn't beat this deathless prose out over a hot typewriter. He has a fairly substantial staff to assist him.

Did the premier enlighten the House as to the difference between Mr. Hooke's "corrections" and political propaganda? He did not. He lambasted the critics and spurned their criticism as "underhanded, small, cheap, childish, insinuous." (That latter word is purely a Social Credit creation and means either "insidious" or "insinuating," or both.)

Yet, somehow we feel that the situation hasn't really been cleared up. The emanations from the Department of Economic Affairs resemble strangely the "hants" that used to issue from the Social Credit Board's seances below the stairway. We could be wrong, but never "insinuous."

Sees Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

armament is now holding. Mr. Brownlee emphasized the government's intention to relieve the present ceiling of \$4 per bushel on July 31st. "I am sure," he concluded, "I need say no more than to again remind farmers that those who seed flax this year will be doing so at their own risk and that they should decide as soon as possible what they will do with any flax not yet delivered."

The elderly lady, unused to the way of pay phones, was having a battle with the instrument—and was asking numerous useless and unnecessary questions of the operator.

Finally, when she was through, she spoke to the operator: "You have been very nice in answering my questions. I am going to put an extra nickel in the box for you."

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Britain Is Driven

(Continued from page 1)

than it is today. We would have had a market in Great Britain because the people of Great Britain are still eating. Britain is obtaining these products from other sources because we failed to produce them in this country."

Decline in Livestock

Because the feed grain subsidy and freight subsidy penalized western production of livestock, and because feed grains were now on the open market, livestock production was declining and slaughtering of hogs had gone down 43.7% between 1948 and 1949. Mr. Wright did not believe Canada would be able to fill her present bacon contract with Great Britain.

In other commodities, Canada has a surplus, Mr. Wright said. These commodities included flax, rape seed, apples, honey, salmon and other kinds of fish. The government bill was "entirely inadequate" to find markets for them, he said.

Roy Knight (C.C.F., Saskatoon) joined Mr. Wright in criticizing the government's failure to prevent the loss of the U.K. markets. They were failing to solve "the most pressing problem facing this country today," Mr. Knight said.

"Britain is being driven willy-nilly into the arms of Poland and Denmark while we sit tight on this highly artificial system of dollar exchange and attempt to make it work," the Saskatoon member said. "The basis of all exchange is an actual exchange of physical goods. When Mr. Howe was asked the other day, he told us that barter as such has not been considered by this government. Personally I do not believe we in this country have yet reached the stage where actual barter is necessary; but I think there are methods which amount to barter under which, by bookkeeping arrangements and through such things as blocked credits, virtually if not in fact we could have a barter system."

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Budget Means

(Continued from Page 1)

No change is made in the 3% sales tax, which now adds to the cost of clothing, household furnishings and many other things in daily use.

The budget went part way to meet demands from the C.C.F. and labor that the tax exemption level be raised. Instead of the former \$750 for single persons, \$1,500 for married persons, the C.C.F. has advocated \$1,250 for single people, \$2,500 for married people. The government's new exemption level is \$1,000 and \$2,000.

Yielded to Big Business

At the other end of the scale, the government has yielded to a big business fallacy which complained of "double taxation." Corporations said that because their profits are subject to a corporation tax, the dividends they pay out should not be subject to income tax when they reach the pockets of the shareholder. "Those 'top crust' people who receive income from company shares will now be able to deduct 10% of their dividends for income tax purposes. The idea is supposed to be to increase the 'incentive to invest', although with most corporations currently paying peak dividends this added attraction seems superfluous."

In cutting the government surplus from \$675 million last year to an estimated \$87 million this year, Finance Minister Abbott admitted he was taking a gamble. If what he called "the present period of sustained—one might almost say unexcelled—prosperity" continues, the government will come through the year with their \$87 million surplus, and the tax reduction bestowed on middle income groups as election bait may still seem justified.

A Lurking Doubt

But Mr. Abbott revealed a lurking doubt:

"I emphasize that all these estimates of revenue and surplus are based on the assumption that current rates of employment, production and incomes will, on the average, be maintained during the coming year. Should this expectation not be realized, our budget surplus of \$87 million could rapidly melt away."

Mr. Abbott also drew shadows across his "sunshine budget" with an expression of concern over Canada's trade.

Exports to Britain and her sterling area were reduced by \$130 million, or about 12%, last year. Exports to other countries, mainly European, dropped about \$30 million or 5%.

Mr. Abbott specifically refused to consider barter deals as a Canadian trade policy. He argued that, since most of our trade is on a "free enterprise" basis with the United States, we might "prejudice" that trade by indulging in barter elsewhere. Moreover, he objected to barter because it "requires widespread governmental control of private trade, and even the ex-

Social Security

(Continued from page 1)

needs and progress," the brief said.

Highlights of the brief were:

Social Security Act—An all-embracing Social Security Act, on a contributory basis, to include health insurance, adequate old age pensions without a means test, mothers' and widows' allowances.

Unemployment Insurance—Changes in the act to provide benefits for dependents not sharing the same domicile, and extension of the act to cover all workers regardless of income or type of employment.

Price Control—Subsidies on basic food commodities to enforce a reduction in consumer prices; to meet the cost, a 100% excess profits tax; no further price increases and a review of all 1948 increases.

Housing—We request the Dominion government to undertake, in co-operation with provincial and municipal governments, a nationwide low-rental home building program financed by national credit and designed to house, under decent conditions, ex-service personnel and those in low-income brackets who cannot afford the high building costs of today.

Taxation—The present income tax exemption raised to \$2,400 a year for married persons and \$1,200 a year for single persons, with exemptions for each child of \$400. Removal of all sales taxes.

National Labor Code—Extension of the act to cover all government and municipal employees, both in the civil service and on hourly rates.

Injunctions in Labor Disputes—Prohibition of use of injunctions in labor disputes, until both disputants have been given an opportunity of appearing and stating their side of the case.

Immigration—A sound immigration policy having regard to reasonable opportunities for employment and available housing. The responsibility for immigration under the Department of Labor and all private schemes barred.

Indigestion—The failure to adjust a square meal to a round stomach.

Domestic harmony—Something a husband can obtain by playing second fiddle.

Nose—An appendage indicating a man's character, particularly if his wife leads him by it.

Divorce suit—Something that is always pressed with the seamy side out.

Tension of trade by agencies of 'the government itself'.

A doctrinaire Free Enterprise, Mr. Abbott doesn't believe in trying anything which runs counter to his dogmatic faith in laissez-faire capitalism.

The Way Of

(Continued from Page 4)

ing for those who are obsessed with "two road" delusions:

"Ever since the British Labor government was swept into power—most of us have seen events in Britain through a fog of more than common density. We have read, it is true, of Mr. Smith, who was sick and tired of having to stand in line forever to do her shopping. . . .

Space has been given to Robinson, who got into trouble, because, on his freehold, he planted buckwheat instead of wheat." (This is Solon Low's favorite story, too!) "But for some reason . . . possibly because it has been thought that we free-enterprisers in America could not bear to hear about a salutary change which has had the bad taste to take place under a Socialist government—we have been very scantily informed about the central fact of British life. The central fact is that . . . for all practical purposes, real poverty, has been abolished. . . .

"The accomplishment of British Socialism . . . which has been most discussed in the American press has been the nationalization program . . . mines, electric power, major phases of transportation, and the banking system (are) under direct government ownership. . . .

With a sensation which affects many as would the glide of an ice cube down the spinal column, the Conservatives have learned the bitter truth that in England the great majority of citizens simply don't care. . . .

What John Bull does discuss is how the railroads and gas works are run. . . . The mere fact of change of ownership does not disturb him. . . . John Bull is unable to see that his liberties—and after six years of fighting Nazis they are doubly precious—have been any more affected by nationalization than by the general post office. . . .

The author then goes into detail on the social security program and what it means to the people. He says: "The lines of fear, fear of life itself, have disappeared—straighter backs and easier smiles. There is confidence in the air—a brand new feeling of personal hopefulness." The Manings, the Lows, the

ONE-TENTH DROP IN COST LIVING INDEX

OTTAWA.—The cost of living index, backed down slightly in January to 159.5, a drop of one-tenth of a point.

The drop came as lower food prices just barely managed to overbalance increases for fuel and light, home furnishings and services and miscellaneous items. Clothing eased slightly and rentals were even.

Woodwards, who speak for the financial and industrial barons, may not care that "people are happier." The following quote from Mr. Vandercook may interest them:

"Twenty, ten, even five years ago . . . we were assured that the middle way was closed. If there were to be social and economic reforms they would have to be achieved under the blueprints and at the bayonet's point of Communism. . . . Nowhere did that DEFEATIST IDEA have such currency as in the U.S. Under its depressing influence many were indeed driven into the intellectual prison of Marxism. . . . What the English people may well have done . . . is to implement an abrupt change in the direction of political thinking of the modern world. They have asserted beyond further discussion their contempt for the Marxian prescription. They have reasserted their devotion to every valid political and private freedom. They are, they are certain, leading their nation and Empire not into the Red, but out of it."

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